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(54) Title: POLYPEPTIDES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF LEISHMANIASIS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides compounds and methods for the detection of anti-leishmanial antibodies in individuals suspected of infection with the protozoan parasite of the genus *Leishmania*, where the infectious agent is an Indian strain and similar or closely related to Indian *Leishmania* strains. The compounds provided include polypeptides as shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6 which are useful for the detection of anti-leishmanial antibodies in individuals where the immune responses are elicited against *Leishmania* species of Indian strains and similar or closely related to Indian *Leishmania* strains, the compounds are also useful as a vaccine and therapeutic agent to prevent and treat leishmaniasis. The present invention further provides a diagnostic kit consisting of antibody raised against polypeptides as shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6 for detecting leishmanial antigens.

WO 2005/063803 A1